Sir, it has been admitted that the Government has been found to be a defaulter in certain cases.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have said notices have been issued to I.R.B.I., notices have been issued to I.F.C.I., notices have been issued to two banks. I have said that. These are all quasi-public sector agencies. I am reading from the list. I am not saying it is a complete list. I started by saying that I have a list of 31 cases. It may not be a complete list, but it is not correct to say that it is an incorrect list. It may be a partial list, but, I think it is a correct list.

PROF. RAM KAPSE: Sir, I would like to enquire about the workers' cooperative units. I have come across some cases from Mumbai, where the workers' cooperatives were formed and they could start a company on their own. They sacrifices so that ultimately the company could start. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether instructions can be given to the B.I.F.R. to see to it that workers' cooperatives are promoted, if they make some sacrifice and a new management is formed. Can the Minister take this into account?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, these guidelines are already there. I think the B.I.F.R. is aware that if workers come forward to form a cooperative and take over the management for running a sick industry, B.I.F.R. would surely and certainly consider that offer on a priority basis.

PROF. RAM KAPSE: Sir, there are cases after cases, where this is not done. I will give you the information.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I know at least one case, where it was handed over to workers and it has been turned around successfully. But, if there is a case where workers have come forward to take over a sick industry and if the B.I.F.R. has not responded favourably, the hon. Memebr may bring it to my notice. Surely, I will ask the operating agency to present it to the B.I.F.R. so that it can consider the matter.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to a speech delivered by the Industries Minister in the same House on 10.5.1997. He said in this House that B.I.F.R. is doing its duty only to bring about a collapse of the public sector undertakings. Sir, it is clearly stated in a Tamil daily.

This was stated in the same Sabha on 10.5.1997. Sir, through you, I would like to have the comment and reaction of the hon. Finance Minister on the speech of the hon. Industries Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, it is quite unfair to ask me to comment on a colleagues statement, as reported in a newspaper. The right course for the hon. Member is to take it up with the Minister concerned and ask him whether he made the statement and get it clarified.

*569. *[The Questioner (Shri Suresh Pachouri) was absent. For answer vide col. 42 infra.]*

*570. *[The Questioner (Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury) was absent. For answer vide col. 43 infra.]*

Production cost of petroleum products

*571. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any data regarding production cost of petroleum products, excluding gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof, per barrel;

(c) what is the production cost of petroleum, both off-shore and on-shore; and

(d) what is the production cost of petroleum products in other major countries, other than Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement

Production cost of petroleum products

(a) and (b) The average cost of production of the refineries, on pooled basis, of major petroleum products exclusive of marketing margin and impact of imported product during 1996-97 is estimatd to be as follows:

Product	U.S.	Rs./SU	Rs./MT	Rs./BBL
MS	KL	6037	8518	1156
HSD	KL	7057	8539	1159
SKO(DOM.)	KL	6820	8764	1189
LPG (PACK-DOM)	MT	7922	7922	1075

(c) The weighted average cost of production of crude oil including return on capital employed on ONGC & OIL for 1995-96 is estimated to be Rs. 1991/ MT.

(d) The data regarding cost of production of individual refineries abroad is not generally published.

The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sanjay Nirupam.

श्री संजय निरुपमः सभापति महोदय, मेरा फर्स्ट और मेरे ख्याल से एकमात्र सप्लीमेंटरी मिलने वाला है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि हमारे देश में जो एक आम धारणा पेट्रोलियम प्राइस को लेकर है और ऐसा कहा जाता है कि पूरी दुनिया में सबसे महंगे पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट्स हमारे यहां हैं—चाहे वह पैट्रोल हो, डीजल हो या बाकी सारी चीजें हों। तो ऐसे आंकड़े मैंने मांगे थे कि कोई फिगर दें कि गल्फ कंट्रीज के अलावा बाकी जो कंट्रीज है जो पेट्रोलियम प्राड्यूज़र्स है, उनके यहां पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्टस की क्या प्राइस है? उससे कंपेयर करके डाटा दीजिए। ऐसा कोई डाटा क्यों अवेलेबल नहीं है और क्या ऐसा डाटा अवेलेबल कराने की कोई कोशिश आपने कभी की है या की जाएगी? मुझे कृप्या यह जानकारी दे कि हमारे यहां ऐज़ कंपेयर टू अदर कंट्रीज, पेट्रोलियम प्रोडक्ट्स की प्राइस कितनी ज्यादा है। as compared to other countries? Thank you.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the data regarding the cost of production of individual refineries abroad is not usually published. It is not available with us. At the same time, the cost of production of petrol per tonne is Rs., 8518 and HSD is Rs. 8539 per tonne.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: It has already been given.

SHRI SUNDR SINGH BHANDARI: It is already there.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Usually foreign data are not available with us. They are not published.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Is it not a fact that our petroleum products are costlier than the petroleum products of other countries? What is your information on this?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Sir, may I intervene? I may inform my friend that the bulk of crude required by India is imported. The total production of crude in India is one-third or less than the requirement. Every day this gap is widening. The requirement of the country which is a developing country is growing. Therefore, if you look at the cost of production, it has to be looked at in two parts. One, of course, is the cost of production in the process of refining. The second is the cost of production of crude. It goes on increasing. That is a different issue. As my honourable colleague has informed you, every country keeps its own cost structure secret. So, guess work will not help.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Sir, I wanted to put only one supplementary. I have not prepared myself to put the second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are not prepared, it is all right.

SHRI R. MARGABANDHU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether India will become self-sufficient in the production of petroleum products at any point of time.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is difficult to say whether we will achieve self-sufficiency, in the production of petroleum products. It depends upon our luck. I hope that sometimes God will be kind to us.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on this petroleum issue I have two specific questions to put. One is that until very recently quite a substantial part of India's crude production was produced within the country. Now, I find that there has been a slackening in our investment towards oil exploration. The reason is political because if you explore for oil, it takes about 5 to 6 years and then to refine and develop it, it takes another 5 to 6 years. So, it takes about 10 years before you come to viable production or near that. As you know, elections are held every five years, sometimes Governments are changed within one year, the Government is not interested in making necessary investment in oil exploration because they do not get any benefit. They themselves do not know what will happen after 10 years. But I think there is a need for the Prime Minister to look into it. There is a need to reach a political consensus that oil exploration will be given a high priority to make India self-sufficient. Our prospective oil-bearing area is vast, of which a small fringe has been explored so far in the offshores of Assam, Gujarat. But there are many other areas in the country which are oil bearing and which have not been explored so far. Thank you.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, bearing all these things in mind, this year we are having a plan outlay of Rs. 11,000 crores. As far as refineries are concerned, we will become self-sufficient by the turn of the century. Our demand is expected to be around 113 tonnes and the production will be 130 million tonnes. By the turn of the century, our refineries capacity and the availability of pertoleum products will be self-sufficient.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJMKUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my supplementary is not relevant to this question, but it is relevant to the country. Sir, both the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Petroleum Minister are present. I would like to know whether there is any proposal to increase the price of petrol.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over, on a note of irrelevancy. Now, statement by minister correcting answer to question. Dr,, Venkateswarlu. ...*(Interruptions)*... No. Zero Hour has not yet come. Dr. Venkateswarlu.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Changes in Delhi Rent Control Act

*562. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment has received a detailed note from the Home Ministry regarding the changes contemplated in Delhi Rent Control Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment has received a note from the Ministry of Home Affairs wherein their views on the proposed amendments to the Delhi Rent Act have been expressed.

(b) and (c) This matter is to be considered and decided by the Cabinet and only then it will be placed before the Parliament. It is, therefore, not possible to furnish details of the note at this stage.